





New York City police officers patrol in Times Square, Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2014, in New York. Preparations are under way for New Year's Eve celebrations, which draw millions of spectators from around the world.

(AP Photo/Kathy Willens)
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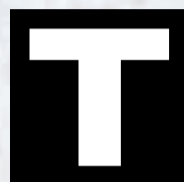


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LEGENDARY SWISS WATCHES SINCE 1853



The Aruba Today Newspaper announces that due to the New Year's Holidays, we will not be in circulation Thursday and Friday, January 1st and 2nd. We will be back on newsstands everywhere bright and early to serve our readers and advertisers first thing in the morning, Saturday, January 3rd. Until then, Happy New Year's from the team at the Aruba Today Newspaper!

AirAsia plane debris, bodies found off coast of Borneo



Indonesian Air Force personnel carry airplane parts recovered from the water near the site where AirAsia Flight 8501 disappeared, at the airbase in Pangkalan Bun, Central Borneo, Indonesia, Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2014.

(AP Photo/Dewi Nurcahyani)

THOMAS FULLER

© 2014 New York Times

SURABAYA, Indonesia -

The mystery of Indonesia's missing airliner was partly solved Tuesday, when rescue teams retrieved and tallied a grim inventory of bodies and debris from the plane off the coast of southwestern Borneo.

But it remained unknown what caused the plane, AirAsia Flight 8501, to plunge into the sea Sunday, less than an hour after taking off from Surabaya bound for Singapore.

Although Indonesian officials did not say so explicitly, their comments Tuesday suggested that it was unlikely that survivors would be found.

"I am so very sorry for this accident," Joko Widodo, Indonesia's president, said before meeting with families of passengers here. "I hope families can stay strong while facing tragedy."

Throughout the afternoon, Indonesian authorities built up an inventory of debris collected by ships and helicopters from the sea surface, including life vests, aircraft parts and what ap-

peared to be a small blue suitcase. Indonesian television showed a rescuer descending from a helicopter toward a corpse, which like other bodies found was not wearing a life jacket.

Search and rescue officials said that three items in particular - the suitcase and parts they identified as an aspirator assembly and a reservoir slide craft - helped them determine that the debris came from Flight 8501.

Indonesian authorities said the pieces of wreckage were found about 60 miles southeast of the last known position of the plane - the opposite direction from the plane's path.

How the debris came to be there was not immediately explained.

But according to Sailing Directions, a mariner's reference published by the U.S. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, ocean currents in that part of the Java Sea run generally to the southeast from November to March.

Luca Centurioni, a researcher at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego who measures

currents around the world, said it would not be surprising for the floating debris to have drifted 60 miles since Sunday morning, especially in unsettled weather.

"The currents are not terribly strong," he said in a telephone interview, "but the waves can be big and the wind can push objects quite a bit."

Search teams also spotted what they said might be a larger submerged piece of

the fuselage of the aircraft, an Airbus A320-200 that was operated by an Indonesian affiliate of AirAsia.

"My heart is filled with sadness for all the families involved in QZ 8501," Tony Fernandes, the head of AirAsia, wrote in a Twitter message soon after the debris was discovered. "On behalf of AirAsia my condolences to all. Words cannot express how sorry I am." Fernandes said later that

he did not want to speculate about the cause of the disaster until the plane's flight data recorders were recovered and analyzed, though he noted that "bad weather is the short-term conclusion - weather in Southeast Asia is bad now." As news spread of the grim discoveries in the sea, some relatives of passengers stood despondently outside the airport in Surabaya. □

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New Year's Eve

COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The giant glittering Waterford crystal ball was tested Tuesday ahead of the New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square, where tens of thousands of revelers are expected to ring in 2015.

Workers coiled massive cables as the 11,875-pound (5,386-kilogram) ball went up and down the flagpole atop 1 Times Square.

"It was such a difficult 2014, we're going to have a great celebration to ring in the new year," said Jeffrey Straus, president of the Times Square Alliance, which runs the event. "This is our opportunity to come



Workers make adjustments before a test of the Waterford crystal ball for the New Year's Eve celebration atop One Times Square in New York, Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2014. The ball, which is 12 feet in diameter and weighs 11,875 pounds, is decorated with 2,688 Waterford crystals and illuminated by 32,256 LED lights.

(AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

together to celebrate the future." Ryan Seacrest will host the countdown show, with Taylor Swift, Idina Menzel, Florida Georgia Line and Magic! among the

musical guests. When the clock strikes midnight and the ball drops, so will 1 ton of confetti — scraps of paper with well wishes for the upcoming year.

The ball drop idea is being modeled around the U.S. — Las Cruces, New Mexico, is holding a chile drop for the first time. Atlanta and Nashville, Tennessee, are hosting peach and music note drops.

No protests are planned so far in New York, where the police department is still mourning two officers shot to death in a patrol car on Dec. 20. But security will still be tight.

Each year, the New York Police Department assigns thousands of extra patrol officers to the festivities to control the crowd and watch for any signs of trouble. Visitors will see heavily armed counterterrorism teams and bomb-sniffing dogs. Rooftop patrols and NYPD helicopters will keep an eye on the crowd, and plainclothes officers will blend in with revelers.

The bomb squad and a unit specializing in chemical and biological threats will sweep hotels, theaters, construction sites and parking garages. They also will

patrol the Times Square subway station and certain exits will be blocked off. The NYPD will rely on a network of thousands of closed-circuit security cameras blanketing lower Manhattan, parts of midtown Manhattan and the subway system.

After the show, sanitation crews will get to work cleaning up from the celebration, working through the night to rid the area of an estimated 50 tons of garbage including confetti, party hats and other leftovers from the revelry.

Temperatures are expected to be well below freezing, and revelers are encouraged to dress warmly and in layers. Eager merrymakers often arrive hours early to get a good spot to view the show — but that means staying put behind metal police pens. There are no bathrooms and once people leave, they can't come back to their spot. Police check backpacks. No alcohol is allowed. □

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Republican leader regrets talk to white supremacists

CHARLES BABINGTON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House's third-ranking Republican leader said Tuesday he regrets speaking 12 years ago to a white supremacist group and condemns the views of such groups.

House Majority Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana said that as a state legislator in 2002, he spoke to many groups about a major tax issue.

"One of the many groups that I spoke to regarding this critical legislation was a group whose views I wholeheartedly condemn," Scalise said in a statement. "It was a mistake I regret, and I emphatically oppose the divisive racial and religious views groups like these hold."

Republican leaders defended Scalise, while Democratic groups criticized him.

House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio said Scalise



Rep. Steve Scalise (R-La.), the No. 3 Republican in the House, heads to the floor for a budget vote, on Capitol Hill in Washington. After Scalise confirmed on Dec. 29 that he had a speaking engagement before a white supremacist group in 2002, Democrats and several prominent conservatives called on GOP leadership to force Scalise out of his post.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

"made an error in judgment, and he was right to acknowledge it was wrong and inappropriate." Boehner said Scalise "has my full confidence as our Whip." Scalise acknowledged at a convention of the European-American Unity and Rights Organization. Former Ku Klux Klan leader David

Duke founded the group, which the Southern Poverty Law Center has classified as a hate group.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee criticized Scalise in an earlier statement on Tuesday, saying he "chose to cheerlead for a group of KKK members and neo-Na-

zis at a white supremacist rally," and questioned why the Republican leadership had remained silent.

In an interview Monday with The Times-Picayune of New Orleans and NOLA.com, Scalise said he had little staffing as a state legislator, and didn't always know details of groups he was invited to address. "I didn't know who all of these groups were, and I detest any kind of hate group," Scalise told the newspaper.

His statement Tuesday did not deal with the issue of weak staffing and sketchy knowledge of his audiences in 2002. However, Scalise, who is Catholic, said "these groups hold views that are vehemently opposed to my own personal faith, and I reject that kind of hateful bigotry."

Scalise won a key endorsement Monday from Rep. Cedric Richmond, who will be Louisiana's only Democrat and only black in Con-

gress when the new Congress convenes next week. Richmond told NOLA.com: "I don't think Steve Scalise has a racist bone in his body."

"He said he has worked closely with Scalise and 'I am not going to let them use Steve as a scapegoat to score political points when I know him and know his family.'"

The events come just days before a new Congress convenes, with Scalise poised to help shape House Republicans' agenda in his first full term as whip.

It also comes as American voters demonstrate increasing racial polarization in their political preferences, with white majorities siding overwhelmingly with Republicans in the 2014 midterms and non-whites continuing their strong support for Democrats. Many strategists say both parties must figure out how to reach beyond their respective bases. □

American Living:

How wealth gap complicates sibling relationships

BERNARD CONDON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When Jayson Seaver thinks about why he makes so much money while some Americans can't catch a break, he thinks of the sacrifices he's made, the jobs he worked to pay for college, the 12-hour days he spends at the office now.

And he thinks of his youngest sister, Jackie, whom he practically begged to go to college and how she refused and is "paying for it" now, watching with envy while he flies around on vacation and enjoys his wealth.

At least that's how he sees it. She has a different view. But they don't talk much.

"I'm disappointed in her," says Jayson, 37. "I think it's distanced us."

It's a story as old as humankind: People raised in the same home, at the same time, by the same parents, who as adults land in vastly different financial circumstances.

Experts see a growing trend. The same forces that

have increasingly separated the richest Americans from everyone else is dividing brothers and sisters,

and respect. From 2009 through 2012, income for the wealthiest 1 percent of households

ferring to his sister and recently deceased brother. "But it really wasn't that way."

"You had pretty much the same advantages and disadvantages growing up," says Conley, author of "The Pecking Order: Which Siblings Succeed and Why."

Such tangled feelings of success and failure can have a public impact, too. How Americans feel about the wealth gap within their families shapes how they feel about it nationally — whether or not they see it as an inequity that must be addressed, says Lane Kenworthy, a sociologist at the University of California, San Diego. Economists ascribe the wealth gap to a range of factors. Some cite superstar pay for the financial and technological elite. Others highlight the role of low-wage workers overseas in shrinking wages for middle class Americans or how machines and software are replacing people on factory floors and in office cubicles.

Poll results suggest a paradox in the public's view: Americans might resent a wealthier sister or brother. Yet many people think the wealth gap is due mainly to the tendency of some people to work harder than others.

And it's not even clear most Americans worry about income inequality anyway. Fewer than half in a Pew Research poll last year thought the gap between rich and poor a "very big problem" — nearly the lowest level among the 14 rich countries where Pew conducted polls.

"They know, or think, it's due to effort and choice" in their family, Kenworthy says. "And they think that's probably how it works in the nation as a whole." The last time Jayson Seaver tried to persuade Jackie to attend college was Christmas 2004 at their parents' home in Appleton, Wisconsin. She had just quit a waitressing job so she could move with her boyfriend out of state. She had little money, no health insurance and, as far as Jayson could see, a bleak future.



In this December, 2014 photo, Jayson Seaver poses for a photo in New York's Harding's restaurant, of which he is a part owner. Seaver feels the wealth gap has affected his relationship with his sister. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

too. It's given rise to a mix of often conflicting emotions — jealousy and resentment, disappointment and distance, but also frequently understanding

surged 31 percent, after adjusting for inflation, according to research by economist Emmanuel Saez of the University of California, Berkeley. For everyone else, income inched up just 0.4 percent.

As the wealth gap has widened, some mental health professionals say they've seen more patients for whom such a divide has become a personal issue. In 35 years practicing psychotherapy, Janna Malamud Smith says she's never had so many clients troubled by sibling wealth. The complaints have grown so familiar to her she can riff on them without pause: "'My sibling can afford to join this country club, and I can't.' 'My brother has houses in four countries, and why can't he help me out?'"

There's more than one reason Stuart Schneider and his siblings stopped speaking years ago. But Schneider, 53, thinks the problem began when he struck it rich in the late '90s selling high-end textiles and began driving a Land Rover and sporting a Rolex watch.

"I thought they would be proud of me," he says, re-

Likewise, VP Young Chang, co-owner of a Los Angeles clothes company, thought his cousins would be pleased he could afford a Ferrari and BMW 7 Series — until he showed up to a family party a few years ago in one of the cars.

"It didn't play well. It wasn't, 'Congrats, Buddy,'" says Chang, 38. "There was jealousy — 'Why do you drive a BMW? We grew up the same.'"

Now, when the family gets together, Chang borrows his mother's van.

A decade ago, sociologist Dalton Conley produced research suggesting that income inequality in America occurs as much within families as among them. Yet the similarities tend to end there. In comparing yourself with rich strangers, Conley notes, you can always convince yourself that they inherited wealth or attended elite schools or had parents with connections to lucrative jobs.

That doesn't work if your brother or sister becomes wealthy. A disparity in siblings' fortunes can feel, Conley says, like a judgment on intelligence or drive.

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Continued on Page 27

After guilty plea, Grimm says he'll resign Jan. 5

L. NEUMEISTER
S. OHLEMACHER
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A U.S. congressman who pleaded guilty to tax evasion just days ago has announced he'll resign from office next week because he would not be able to give the job his full attention anymore. Republican Rep. Michael Grimm of New York issued a statement late Monday saying he will resign effective Jan. 5.

"The events which led to this day did not break my spirit, nor the will of the voters," he said. "However, I do not believe that I can continue to be 100% effective in the next Congress, and therefore, out of respect for the office and the people I so proudly represent, it is time for me to start the next chapter of my life."

Grimm's guilty plea last week to aiding in the filing of a false tax return came after he was re-elected in the November midterm elections to his seat representing the New York City borough of Staten Island and part of Brooklyn, even though he was under indictment.

Following the plea, Grimm said he would stay in Congress as long as he could. House Speaker John Boeh-

ner said Grimm made an "honorable" decision by resigning, adding that he knows Grimm acted "with the best interests of his constituents and the institution (of the House) in mind."

The new Congress is scheduled to open Jan. 6, and Grimm's presence would have been a distraction for Republicans who will control both the House and the Senate.

According to an indictment, the tax fraud began in 2007 after Grimm retired from the FBI and began investing in a small Manhattan restaurant called Healthalicious.

The indictment accused him of underreporting more than \$1 million in wages and receipts to evade payroll, income and sales taxes, partly by paying immigrant workers, some of them in the country illegally, in cash.

Sentencing was scheduled for June 8. Prosecutors said a range of 24 to 30 months in prison would be appropriate, while the defense estimated the appropriate sentence as between 12 and 18 months.

It's up to Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo to call a special election, which must be held between 70 to 80 days after Cuomo announces a congressional



Rep. Michael Grimm leaves Federal court in Brooklyn, New York. Grimm announced he'll resign from office next week because he would not be able to give the job his full attention anymore. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)

vacancy. The candidates would be chosen without a primary by the political parties or by petition.

Staten Island District Attorney Daniel Donovan is considered a frontrunner on the Republican side. Dono-

van was the prosecutor in a case in which a grand jury cleared a white New York City police officer in the death of Eric Garner, a black man, after being placed in an apparent chokehold. □

2 Boston police officers attacked by teenagers

PHILIP MARCELO
MARK PRATT
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Two Boston police officers were hospitalized after they were attacked by six teenagers related to a person they were arresting, authorities said Tuesday.

Boston Police Commissioner William Evans said the officers, a woman and a man, were "pretty banged up" in Monday's attack but recovering. Both were treated for undisclosed injuries and have been released from the hospital. Their names have not been made public.

Mayor Martin Walsh said he does not believe the assault has anything to do

with rising tensions around the U.S. over police conduct following the killings of unarmed black men in Missouri and New York City. Evans said the officers went to an apartment in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood Monday morning to serve a warrant on a 19-year-old man for defaulting on court appearances. Seven people were arrested in all, including the person police were originally seeking. He was identified by the district attorney's office as Woobenson Morisset.

Morisset and 18-year-old Lorcen Morisset, who is accused of participating in the attack, were scheduled for arraignment Tuesday. □

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Mumbai terror attack suspect rearrested in Pakistan

ZARAR KHAN

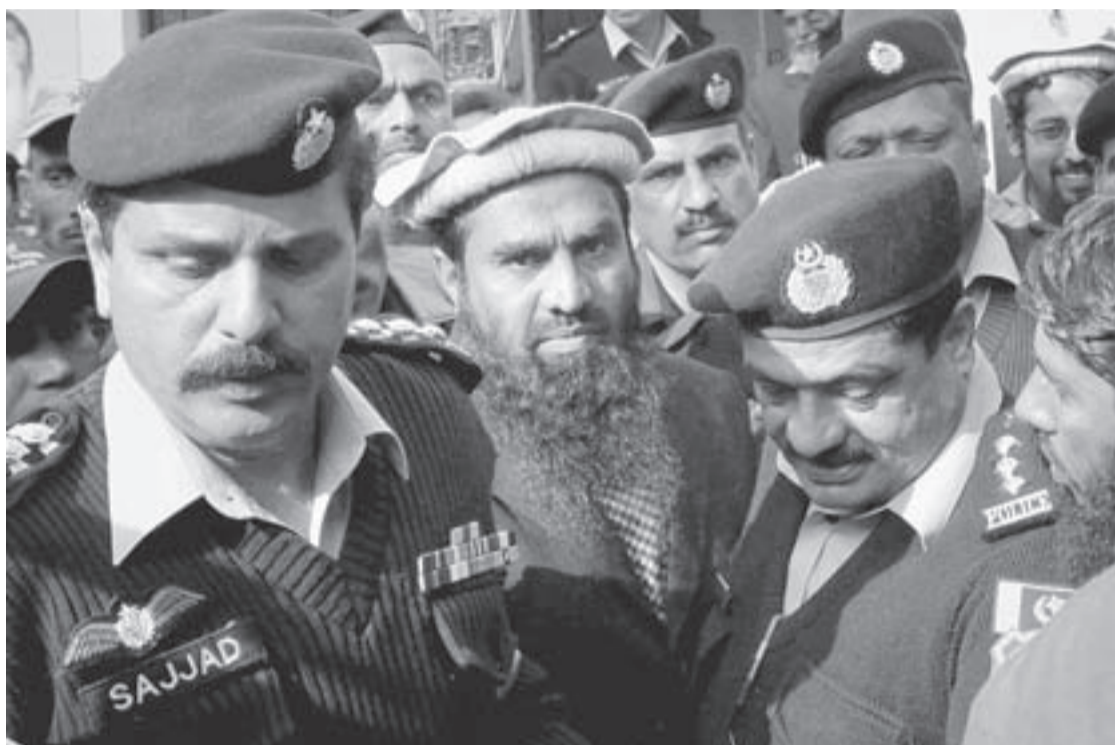
ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistani police have rearrested the main suspect in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, officials said Tuesday, quashing expectations that he might soon be freed.

Zaki-ur-Rahman Lakhvi is one of seven suspects being tried by Pakistan in connection with the attacks, which killed 166 people and seriously damaged relations between longtime rivals Pakistan and India.

After a judge on Dec. 18 granted him bail there had been concerns that he would be freed, possibly as early as Tuesday. But on Tuesday morning, police arrested him on another case, his lawyer Rizwan Abbasi said.

Lakhvi appeared in court in Islamabad amid tight security. He told an Associated Press reporter that he accepted whatever God intended for him.

Police inspector Moham-



Pakistani police officers escort Zaki-ur-Rahman Lakhvi, center, the main suspect in the Mumbai terror attacks in 2008, after his court appearance in Islamabad, Pakistan, Tuesday, Dec 30, 2014. Pakistani police have rearrested Lakhvi, officials said Tuesday, quashing expectations that he might be soon freed.
 (AP Photo/Anjum Naveed)

med Arshad told the court that someone had filed a complaint at a police station on the Islamabad outskirts saying that Lakhvi had abducted his brother-

in-law to wage "jihad" six and a half years ago. The judge granted a police request for time to investigate the accusation, extending Lakhvi's detention

for two days.

A lawyer for Lakhvi questioned why the complaint had only become known when it appeared that Lakhvi would be let go on

bail. Rizwan Abbasi called it a tactic to "....deprive my client of the fundamental right of liberty."

The legal maneuverings Tuesday stem from the decision on Dec. 18 by the judge in an anti-terrorism court to grant him bail, citing a lack of evidence.

That announcement was extremely embarrassing to the government, which had vowed to crack down on militancy following the Peshawar school attack days earlier. It provoked a harsh condemnation from India, which has repeatedly said Pakistan is not doing enough in the case.

In the wake of the bail announcement Pakistani legal authorities tried various mechanisms to keep Lakhvi behind bars, but in a hearing on Monday, a judge said that there were no grounds to prolong the detention and that the only thing standing between him and freedom was posting bail. □

Ferry death toll rises to 13, amid stowaway concerns

ELISABETTA POVOLEDO

© 2014 New York Times

VERBANIA, Italy - The death toll in a ferry fire off the Greek coast rose to 13 on Tuesday, including two Albanian workers who died while trying to connect a cable to the stricken ship. But prosecutors said that the number could rise amid fears that passengers who boarded illegally might have been trapped in the hold, where the fire raged most fiercely.

Exhausted passengers from the ferry, the Norman Atlantic, continued

to arrive by ship at various Mediterranean ports Tuesday, but authorities were unable to say with certainty how many people had been rescued in a 30-hour-plus operation that involved ships, planes and helicopters from Albania, Greece and Italy. High winds and stormy seas that had hindered rescuers persisted, slowing ships carrying survivors.

Giuseppe Volpe, the prosecutor in Bari, Italy, whose office was given jurisdiction over the criminal investigation into Sunday's fire, said the discovery of

at least three stowaways - two Afghans and a Syrian - among the survivors suggested that there could be others who boarded illegally.

"The ship was transporting stowaways, hidden in the hold," Volpe said at a news conference in Bari. "Our fear is that once we have recovered the wreck we will find other dead people on board." It remained unclear how many passengers had been on the boat, and how many were rescued. Volpe said as many as 499 people may have been

on board, not including any possible stowaways, but his office could only verify those who were rescued by Italian ships. The count was complicated after survivors were distributed among various vessels flying different national flags.

Volpe said his figures indicated that 179 people remained unaccounted for, but he said he hoped those passengers were on ships that had taken survivors to Greece. An Italian navy ship remained in the waters off the Albanian coast to continue to look

for bodies.

The Italian navy said Tuesday evening that the San Giorgio, a military ship carrying the highest number of survivors, was arriving in the harbor in Brindisi, Italy. Volpe's office, in conjunction with Albanian authorities, on Tuesday took legal custody of the Norman Atlantic, which will be towed to Brindisi. There, investigators will search the ship for evidence of other stowaways and try to determine the cause of the fire. Both the ship's commander and owner are under investigation. □



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IS group claims suicide attack at Iraq funeral

S. SALAHEDDIN
 Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Islamic State group on Tuesday claimed responsibility for a suicide attack on a funeral tent north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad the day before that killed 16 people and wounded 34 others. The claim was made in a statement posted on a Twitter account frequently used by the extremist group. It did not mention the nationality of the attacker. Monday's attack targeted the funeral of the father of two members of pro-government Sunni militias. The Islamic State group frequently targets Iraq's Shiite majority as well as Sunnis allied with the Shiite-led government. The bomber showed up at the funeral disguised as a Shiite, with a religious flag and a portrait of a Shiite imam, according to Hussein Ali, a local resident who said he witnessed the attack. In a separate incident, a Shiite militia commander was killed Monday by a sniper's bullet during fighting with Islamic State militants in the town of Duluyah, about 75 kilometers (45 miles) north of Baghdad, said another senior militia commander. Retired Brig. Gen. Abbas Hassan Jabr had joined the Badr Brigades, a powerful Shiite militia, after the IS group captured vast swaths of northern and western Iraq over the summer, said the commander, who spoke on condition of anonymity because his militia had not authorized him to speak to the press. Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi issued a statement hailing Jabr as "one of Iraq's heroes" and vowing that his death would increase "our determination to liberate all Iraq." □

Navalny, Putin critic, detained at unauthorized rally

DAVID M. HERSZENHORN
 © 2014 New York Times

MOSCOW - Police in Moscow briefly detained the anti-corruption crusader and political opposition leader Alexei Navalny on Tuesday as he tried to join an unauthorized, anti-government rally, just hours after a Moscow court had given him a suspended sentence on criminal fraud charges. Authorities said later that police were merely escorting Navalny back to his home, Interfax reported. Earlier, in a surprise twist, the court had spared Navalny jail time by suspending his sentence of 3 1/2 years but ordered his younger brother, Oleg, who was also charged, to serve a prison term of the same length. The imprisonment of Oleg Navalny, who is generally viewed as a pawn in a larger battle, signaled that the Kremlin was making a thugish attempt to suppress Alexei Navalny's political activities and avoid making a martyr out of him. After it was read, bailiffs immediately placed Oleg Navalny, a former postal

worker who was not politically active and had been virtually unknown in public before the trial, in a cell inside the courtroom.

"This is a dirty trick. To punish me more?" Alexei Navalny's house arrest, imposed in February, was expected to end as

tence is completed. His actions will also be shadowed now by fear of harm befalling his brother in prison. Some close observers of the



Russian opposition activist and anti-corruption crusader Alexei Navalny, 38, arrives at a court in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2014. Navalny, the anti-corruption campaigner who is a leading foe of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was found guilty of fraud and given a suspended sentence of three and a half years on Tuesday. (AP Photo/Alexander Khitrov)

"Aren't you ashamed?" Alexei Navalny cried out in dismay at the judge, Yelena Korobchenko. "Why are you jailing him?" Alexei Navalny shouted.

soon as the suspended sentence, is officially in place. Under Russian law, his felony conviction makes him ineligible to seek public office for 10 years after the sen-

Russian political system said that jailing Oleg Navalny effectively turned him into a "hostage," and was a way of taking revenge against his brother. □

Suicide car bomb targets Libya parliament

ESAM MOHAMED
 Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — A suicide car bomber rammed his vehicle into the outer gate of the headquarters of the internationally recognized parliament, a Libyan lawmaker and a security official said. Parliamentarian Abu Bakr Baeira said no one was killed in the attack in the eastern city of Tobruk, where the assembly has been forced to convene since Islamist-allied militias seized the capital Tripoli over the summer and revived a rival government.

A security official said 18 people were lightly injured including a lawmaker and three children. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press. No one claimed responsibility for the bombing. Officials have blamed previous attacks on Islamic extremists based in the eastern town of Darna, who have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group. Widespread militia violence has plunged Libya into chaos less than four years after a NATO-backed

uprising toppled and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi. The Tripoli-based government has launched an offensive against militias controlling the country's main oil terminals in central Libya. The days-long clashes set ablaze several oil storage tanks a few kilometers from the strategically vital oil terminal in Sidra. At least 850,000 barrels of oil were lost because of the fire in five storage tanks. Meanwhile, the internationally recognized government launched airstrikes against the western city of

Misrata this week for the first time, expanding the geography of the conflict. The government troops have been engaged in fierce clashes in the city of Benghazi, the country's second largest city and birthplace of the anti-Gadhafi uprising, while sporadic fighting continued in the far western mountain region. The conflict in Libya has left hundreds dead and hundreds of thousands internally displaced. Most diplomatic missions have shut down their embassies and many foreign workers have fled the country. □

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UN, EU concerned at arrest of Bahrain Shiite leader

REEM KHALIFA
Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) —

The UN human rights chief on Tuesday called on Bahrain's government to immediately release the leader of the country's main Shiite opposition group and the European Union warned that his arrest could further destabilize an already fragile political environment. Sheikh Ali Salman's arrest on Sunday has been widely viewed as an escalation that is likely to deepen the political standoff between the Arab nation's majority Shiite population and its Sunni-led monarchy.

Public prosecutors on Tuesday said Salman would remain in custody for another seven days pending further investigations into statements that allegedly incited violence. The prosecution announced Salman's week-long detention on its official Twitter page, but did not mention Salman by

name.

The spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Liz Throssell, urged Bahrain's government to immediately release Salman, "as well as

an already difficult political and security situation."

Both the UN and EU statements said dialogue and national reconciliation were the only way out of Bahrain's current crisis.



Sheik Ali Salman, head of the main Shiite opposition group Al-Wefaq, is seen during a public address in Manama, Bahrain. The European Union warned that the recent arrest of Salman could further destabilize an already fragile political environment. (AP Photo/Hasan Jamali)

all other persons convicted or detained for merely exercising their fundamental rights to freedom of expression and assembly."

The EU said his arrest "carries the risk of jeopardizing

Bahrain's Attorney General Nayef Mahmoud said that prosecutors were following up on Interior Ministry accusations that Salman incited people to break the law, promoted political change

through illegal force, incited hatred against specific segments of the society and defamed a governmental body. Salman, 49, heads the opposition group al-Wefaq. It boycotted last month's parliamentary elections and has been leading calls for reform for years. The group has played a leading role in the mostly Shiite-led protests that erupted in February 2011 demanding greater power-sharing between elected lawmakers and the Sunni monarchy, the release of political prisoners and a prime minister chosen by elected officials and not the king. Hundreds of protesters took to the streets for the third day this week to demand his release.

Salman's defense lawyer Abdulla al-Shamlawi told The Associated Press he is being accused of inciting hatred against the monarchy and calling for its overthrow in a series of speech-

es made since 2012.

Al-Shamlawi said Salman was asked specifically about a sermon he gave in July 2013 in which he said taking up arms is still an option, but is an option that has been rejected by the opposition since 1992.

The attorney general said that the content and nature of Salman's statements "had significantly escalated from incitement and hate speech, ultimately to threats of military force against the state, including the imminent option to deploy methods currently used by armed groups operating elsewhere in the region." Mahmoud said prosecutors are examining recordings of Salman's speeches and statements, adding that Salman was questioned by prosecutors in the presence of four lawyers and had been provided with the opportunity to meet his legal team in private. □

German opposition urges probe into NATO 'hit list'

FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German opposition lawmakers called Tuesday for an investigation into reports that the country's army and foreign intelligence agency contributed to a NATO list of Taliban targets in Afghanistan, some of whom were killed.

Citing NATO documents,

German newspapers Der Spiegel and Bild have reported that Germany was among the countries that added names of insurgents to the alliance's Joint Prioritized Effects List, or JPEL.

Germany had the third-largest contingent of troops participating in NATO's International Security Assistance Force for

Afghanistan, which ended this year. Its participation in the mission was questioned by many in Germany, partly because it was seen as a return to the country's militaristic past. Jan van Aken, a lawmaker for the Left Party, called for a "comprehensive investigation" into whether information provided by the army or the foreign in-

telligence agency, BND, was used to kill specific individuals without trial.

"There needs to be swift clarity on whether the German army or the BND participated in targeted killings as part of the ISAF mission," Green Party lawmaker Agnieszka Brugger said.

An army spokesman said that while information collected by German forces in Afghanistan was included in the JPEL, insurgents nominated by Germany were marked for detention only.

"In those operations where German troops had the responsibility for the use of military force, this occurred solely with the aim of detaining the person in ques-

tion," Lt. Col. Markus Beck told The Associated Press. Asked about a Bild report quoting a German commander calling for an insurgent to be detained or "neutralized," he said that NATO defines the latter term to mean that a target is rendered "ineffective or unusable for a temporary period," not killed.

But Beck added that other NATO members may have drawn on the list, containing more than 650 names, when conducting their own missions. "It can't be excluded that operations against target persons in Afghanistan that didn't take place within the ISAF command structure used information provided to ISAF," he said. □



Happy Holidays!

The Buccaneer Restaurant will be closed December 25, 26th, 31st (New Year's Eve) & January 1st (New Year's Day).

The Entire Buccaneer Staff would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

First Ebola victim may have been infected by bats

MIKE STOBBE
J. PAYE-LAYLEH
Associated Press
GUINEA/NEW YORK (AP)

— A team of researchers think they have pinpointed how the Ebola epidemic in West Africa started — with a small boy playing in a hollowed-out tree where infected bats lived.

The researchers explored an area in southeastern Guinea where 2-year-old Emile Ouamouno fell ill a year ago and died. Health officials believe he was the first case in the epidemic, which wasn't recognized until spring.

The Ebola virus wasn't found in the bats they tested, the scientists reported in a study published Tuesday. But they came away believing that the boy got it from the bats that had lived in the hollow tree.

The Ebola epidemic is the worst in world history, blamed for killing nearly 8,000 people across West Africa this year.

The epidemic's exact origin has never been determined, but the virus is thought to spread to people from some sort of animal. Many experts have suspected some species of fruit bat, though some wonder if West Africa's epidemic started through another animal — like a chimpanzee or small antelope — that was perhaps infected by bats and then eaten by people.

The researchers saw no signs that Ebola had affected larger animals around the boy's small village of Meliandou. They also found no evidence of the virus in tests of 169 bats, including fruit bats. Then they learned that a large colony of small, smelly bats with long tails lived in a hollow tree near the boy's home. Villagers told the researchers that the tree caught fire in March, causing a "rain of bats" to emerge from the tree.

The study, led by researchers at the Robert Koch Institute in Berlin,



Children play in the fishing port of Conakry, Guinea. A team of researchers think they have pinpointed how the Ebola epidemic in West Africa started — with a small boy playing in a hollowed-out tree where infected bats lived in Guinea.

(AP Photo/Jerome Delay)

was published Tuesday in EMBO Molecular Medicine. They said more research should be done on the bats as possible Ebola carriers.

Also on Tuesday, Liberia's government announced it will allow families to bury Ebola victims in a special plot of land instead of requiring that the bodies

be cremated so as not to spread the virus.

Ciatta Bishop, head of Liberia's national Ebola burial team, said the government has secured 25 acres where Ebola victims can now be buried. More than 2,000 suspected Ebola victims have been cremated since the cremation decree was

ordered at the height of the crisis in Liberia several months ago. The corpses of Ebola victims are highly contagious, and many of those who washed or touched bodies before the burials contracted the disease. The cremation decree is highly unpopular in Liberia, where funeral traditions are carefully

followed and are considered a sacred obligation to the deceased. Many families have tried to secretly bury their relatives' bodies to avoid them being taken away by burial teams to face cremation. Most of the Ebola deaths have been in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. □

US Embassy in Gambia confirms coup attempt

RUKMINI CALLIMACHI
© 2014 New York Times

DAKAR, Senegal - Gunfire erupted overnight in Banjul, the capital of the West African nation of Gambia, and residents awoke Tuesday to find government buildings and the main bridge into town sealed off by fidgety soldiers.

The U.S. Embassy confirmed an attempted coup, even as the Gambian government issued a vague statement that "peace and calm continue to prevail in the Gambia."

Residents said that shooting began at around 1 a.m. near the seat of gov-

ernment. After day broke, most establishments in the island capital remained closed despite regular broadcasts on state-run radio urging businesses to open.

Westerners living in Gambia awoke to emails from their embassies urging them to stay indoors.

"It seems a coup attempt occurred last night," Dan Whitman, a spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Banjul, wrote in an email. "There has been no sign of transfer of political or military power."

Gambia's president, Yahya Jammeh, seized power in a putsch 20 years ago. Since 1994, he has

weathered several other attempted coups as his government has grown increasingly autocratic. He is known for his erratic behavior and bizarre pronouncements, including claiming that he had found a cure for AIDS.

At the same time, Gambia has built a thriving tourism economy. International hotel chains have opened and now dot the country's white-sand beaches, and European airlines were expected to increase direct flights to Banjul to cater to a growing number of package tours.

The government's statement Tuesday neither

confirmed nor denied an attempted coup.

"Contrary to rumors being circulated, peace and calm continue to prevail in the Gambia, and the government would like to urge the general public and all businesses to carry on with their normal activities as usual," a news release issued to the state-run broadcaster said.

Reports over the weekend quoted state radio as saying that Jammeh was on a visit to France, but his precise whereabouts remained unknown. French officials were quoted as saying that there was no record of his arrival in France. □

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ARUBA WINE & DINE

Relatives: Cuba detains dissidents before protest

**A. RODRIGUEZ
M. WEISSENSTEIN**
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuban dissidents said Tuesday

declaration of U.S.-Cuban detente.

Expatriate artist Tania Bruguera returned to Cuba Friday after announcing

power.

"I've been arrested," dissident Antonio Rodiles told The Associated Press by telephone, reporting that

he had also been arrested along with Reinaldo Escobar, husband of renowned blogger Yoani Sanchez. Rodiles' group publicly supported Bruguera's performance plan. It wasn't immediately clear if Escobar and Avila had planned to attend.

The idea of airing political critiques within earshot of the president's office and military headquarters outraged many government officials and their backers, who blasted Bruguera on social networks as a provocateur seeking to provoke disorder in Cuba.

Bruguera's whereabouts were unclear Tuesday afternoon. Her sister told the AP that the artist last spoke to her family Tuesday evening.

"We have heard anything of her," Deborah Bruguera said. A police officer stood guard in front of Tania Bruguera's apartment Tuesday afternoon and did not let a reporter approach.

President Barack Obama pledged this month that easing the embargo on Cuba and normalizing diplomatic relations would be a better way of supporting Cuban civil society.

Arrest warrant for Korean Air nut rage exec

YOUKYUNG LEE
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

A South Korean court on Tuesday approved the arrest of a former Korean Air Lines Co. executive who delayed a flight over a bag of macadamia nuts. Cho Hyun-ah, the daughter of the airline's chairman, has faced mounting public anger because she forced the flight to return to its gate in New York to remove a senior flight attendant. She was angry that the nuts were served in a bag, not on a plate, in an incident that has been dubbed "nut rage."

Prosecutors have yet to press criminal charges against Cho, but South Korean law allows authorities to arrest a suspect for up to six months over worries the person could flee or destroy evidence. Seoul Western District Court said such concerns were warranted. A separate arrest warrant for a current Korean Air executive, whose surname is Yeo, was also granted. Yeo is suspected of pressuring Korean Air employees to conceal the incident.

The court said there were "systematic attempts to cover up" Cho's actions "since the beginning of the incident."

The Seoul Western Prosecutors' Office has said Cho would face several charges, including inflight violence and changing a flight route, which is prohibited under aviation law.

Cho, 40, resigned earlier this month as vice president at Korean Air and from all her roles at the airline's affiliates.

A passenger on the Dec. 5 flight told local media that Cho assaulted and threatened crew members.



Members of the Cuban dissident group Ladies in White, participate in a demonstration in Havana, Cuba. dissidents said Tuesday that police had arrested at least three members of the island's political opposition hours before the first major test of Cuba's tolerance for dissent since this month's declaration of U.S.-Cuban detente.

(AP Photo/Desmond Boylan)

that police had arrested at least three members of the island's political opposition hours before the first major test of Cuba's tolerance for dissent since this month's

plans to set up an open microphone for any member of the public Tuesday afternoon on the Plaza of the Revolution, the symbolic heart of Cuban political

police were taking him away around 12:30 p.m. The wife of Eliecer Avila, the 29-year-old head of moderate opposition group "Somos Mas," told the AP

South Korea offers talks with North Korea-

HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

South Korea on Monday proposed talks with North Korea to discuss what it calls a range of issues needed to prepare for the unification of the divided countries.

It's unclear if Pyongyang would accept Seoul's offer as the country has viewed any of South Korea's unification plans an attempt to take it over. North Korea wants a unified Korea with Pyongyang in charge.

Unification Minister Ryoo Ki-hl-jae told a televised news conference that South Korea wants talks in January to discuss exchange programs, joint projects and laws needed for a unified Korea. Ryoo said South Korea hopes the proposed talks would also discuss resuming reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

Seoul launched a government committee on the unification in July, six months after President Park Geun-hye told a New Year's press

conference that unifying with North Korea would bring an economic "bonanza," not massive financial costs.

North Korea made an angry response, saying Park's plans were nothing but a plot to topple Pyongyang and build a unified Korea under a South Korean system. The Korean Peninsula was divided into a U.S.-backed, capitalistic South Korea and a Soviet-supported, socialist North Korea after its liberation from the Japanese colonial oc-

cupation from 1910 to 1945. The Koreans share the world's most heavily fortified border as the Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. Animosities deepened when their troops traded gunfire along the border twice in October.

South Korean defense officials said Monday that Seoul, Washington and Tokyo have signed their first trilateral intelligence-gathering pact to better deal with North Korea's nuclear and missile threats.



Elmar Celebrates Christmas Under Twinkling Stars



Palm Beach -- The annual, much anticipated Elmar employee Christmas party, unfolded this year afresco, at the Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort's Pure Ocean Restaurant. The elegant crowd arrived at the beautifully illuminated beachside party location and enjoyed an eve-



ning of exceptional food and sensational music with Tico Kock and his steel band at the beginning of the evening. After delicious dinner Ofo Escude-

ro's N'Fuzion took over the band stand enticing party-goers to dance under the stars with the moonlit ocean as their witness. Just before midnight, a hearty Seafood Chowder was served, inspiring the dancers to get back onto the dance floor with renewed energy and gusto. As a gesture of solidarity with its clients, Aruba's electricity consumers, Elmar decided to go green in 2014, and forego air-conditioning and expensive light effects in favor of the environmentally friendly, but equally impressive, open air party with LED



lighting in different color tones. The party setting and beach were aglow with energy saving lights dem-

onstrating Elmar's commitment to energy efficiency. Inge van Roon Director of Banquet and Event Sales, Divi Resorts, was handed the challenge to create a great party, with reduced energy costs, and together with her team, she made it happen, delivering a memorable event with a much-reduced carbon footprint. In collaboration with Robert Lee, Marrit Fleur and many other friendly Divi faces, they helped Elmar, the island's energy provider, set a new trend in year-end party celebrations.





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Enjoy a five-course dinner in The Grand Caribbean Ballroom from 8:00 until 10:00 pm. The night sparkles with anticipation and guests will be treated to live music, special desserts station and unlimited wine and beer.

Advance reservations recommended. Dinner in Sunset Grille or The Grand Caribbean Ballroom \$125 per adult, \$65 per child 6-12 years old (reduced portion)

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The Grand Caribbean Countdown Celebration is the biggest, bestest, funnest way to welcome 2015. The night includes live entertainment and dancing, premium open bar and celebratory hors d'oeuvres, champagne toast at midnight, party favors and a kids' entertainment corner.

Party from 10:00 pm to 1:30 am. Advance reservations recommended. \$75 per adult, \$35 per child 6-12 years old

DINE AND CELEBRATE

Enjoy dinner in the Ballroom or in Sunset Grille and attend the Grand Caribbean Countdown Celebration for \$175 per adult, \$95 per child 6-12 years old

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Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring Mr. and Mrs. Menkes as Ambassadors of Goodwill at the Aruba Divi Phoenix. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as

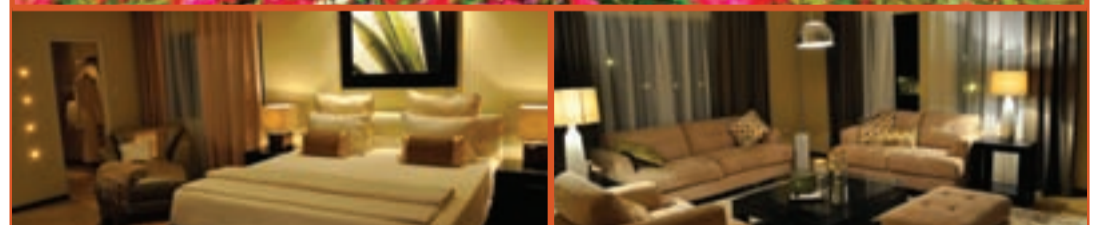
a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mr. Carlos Werleman and GM

Mr. Gerrit Griffith, representing the Divi Phoenix Resort. Wherever you might go this week, don't be surprised if you bump into the large, happy Menkes Family, who are thoroughly enjoying their time together on our sunny island. ☐



have made over the years. Their car license plate even reads: "Arubahhh"! Back home in New York, T-shirts have been printed especially for this trip since the entire family is here to

celebrate a special occasion. Mr. and Mrs. Menkes prepared a detailed week schedule with "where to go and what to do", visiting all their favorite restaurants and locations.

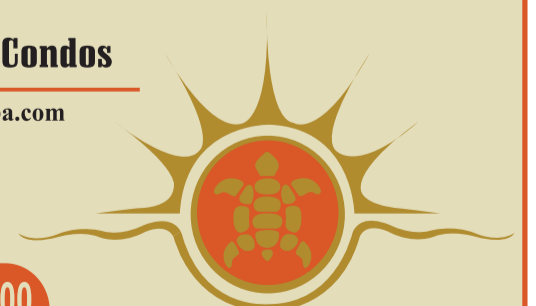


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THE BEST MAN

Giants' ace Bumgarner named AP Male Athlete of the Year

Page 19

In this Oct. 29, 2014, file photo, San Francisco Giants pitcher Madison Bumgarner throws during the fifth inning of Game 7 of baseball's World Series against the Kansas City Royals in Kansas City, Mo. Bumgarner is the 2014 Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year. Associated Press

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NBA Capsules

Plumlee leads Nets over Kings 107-99



Sacramento Kings' DeMarcus Cousins (15) defends Brooklyn Nets' Mason Plumlee (1) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Dec. 29, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Mason Plumlee continued his impressive play with a team-high 22 points, Joe Johnson and Jarret Jack each scored 16, and the Brooklyn Nets held on to beat the Sacramento Kings 107-99 on Monday night.

Rudy Gay had 25 points and DeMarcus Cousins added 24 points and 13 rebounds for the Kings, who've lost 13 of their last 17 games.

Brook Lopez came off the bench and chipped in 11 points for the Nets, who bounced back from a

25-point loss to Indiana on Saturday night at Barclays Center and won for the fourth time in their last five games.

The Nets led 93-83 with 5:53 left in the fourth quarter after a layup by Deron Williams, but Gay then scored five straight points in a 26-second span, including a 3-pointer, that cut the lead to 93-88 with 5:12 to play.

CLIPPERS 101, JAZZ 97

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Blake Griffin scored 24 points and Los Angeles beat Utah for its 12th straight victory over the Jazz, breaking the franchise record for consecutive losses against one club. Chris Paul finished with 20 points and eight assists. DeAndre Jordan had 19 rebounds for the two-time defending Pacific Division champions. The Clippers blocked 12 shots and never trailed in the fourth quarter despite leading by no more than five points at any point.

The previous franchise record for wins by the Clippers against one team was set against the Dallas Mavericks. The Clippers are 10-6 in December with one game left.

Gordon Hayward scored 22 points for the Jazz and Rudy Gobert added 13 rebounds and 11 points off the bench. Shooting guard Alec Burks missed his second straight game because of chronic soreness in his left shoulder. He also sat out two games early this month for the same reason. MAGIC 102, HEAT 101

MIAMI (AP) — Nikola Vucevic scored 26 points, Victor Oladipo scored seven of his 22 in the final minutes and Orlando beat Miami.

Oladipo had a layup to tie

it, then a free throw to put the Magic ahead to stay and give them their first win against Miami in 11 tries.

Tobias Harris scored 18 for the Magic, who got 13 from Channing Frye.

Dwyane Wade scored 25 points for Miami, which has lost 12 of 18 at home. Danny Granger had 21 points and Chris Bosh scored 20 in his return after missing eight games with a strained left calf.

Granger was 6 for 7 from 3-point range, including one that put Miami up 101-97 with 1:38 left. The Heat didn't score again.

There were nine lead changes and four ties in the fourth quarter, with the Magic knotting the game at 101-all when Oladipo drove by Wade and scored with 45 seconds left.

BUCKS 104, HORNETS 94, OT CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Brandon Knight scored 18 points, including a layup to force overtime, and Milwaukee pulled away to beat Charlotte.

Jared Dudley scored 17 points, Giannis Antetokounm had 16, Zaza Pachulia had 15, O.J. Mayo had 13 and John Henson added 11 for the Bucks (16-16), who snapped a seven-game losing streak to the Hornets dating back to the 2011-2012 season.

Kemba Walker scored 28 points, Gerald Henderson added 19 and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist scored 10 for the Hornets (10-22), who fought back from a 21-point deficit in the first half. Walker's layup with 54.5 seconds remaining gave Charlotte an 83-81 lead, but Knight followed up his own blocked shot for a layup with 16 seconds left to tie the score and force overtime.

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Thursday	Free Slot Tournament \$625 in cash prizes Tournament starts at 8pm — Registration at 6pm Must accumulate 25 points during the week to be eligible
Friday	Santa's Crazy Cash \$800 in cash prizes The more you play the more chances you have! For every 25 points earned during the week redeem your ticket for Santa's Crazy Cash First drawing starts at 9pm
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AP Male Athlete of the Year: Madison Bumgarner

By JANIE McCAULEY

AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) --

Madison Bumgarner sat in the outfield alongside Jake Peavy before Game 7 of the World Series and told his teammate exactly what needed to happen: Tim Hudson would work a few innings and get the ball to Bumgarner, who would hand it off to the bullpen to finish the championship.

Peavy quickly offered his own prediction that Bumgarner would end it himself.

That's exactly what Mad-Bum did, following up a pair of World Series wins with a save at Kansas City to close out San Francisco's third title in five years and cap a brilliant postseason that made him a household name - or, at the very least, a household nickname. He is the 2014 Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year.

"I was sitting in the outfield with Madison and he was asking me how I thought this game was going to play out," Peavy recalled this month. "I said to him: 'Madison, when you get the ball, you're not coming out of the game. You're the best guy we've got.' ... He said, 'Man, that's exactly what I hoped you would say' and exactly what he wanted. He just needed some confirmation, somebody to believe in him as well. I said, 'Fight for that ball, man,' and what he did will go down in the ages as the best ever." The shaggy-haired left-hander who takes as much pride in his pitching and durability as he does his deep North Carolina roots, Bumgarner became October's biggest star for a San Francisco club that really needed one during another improbable World Series run.

Bumgarner finished first in a vote by U.S. editors and news directors. He beat out Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw - who won the National League Cy Young and MVP. Retiring New York Yankees star Derek Jeter and golfer Rory McIlroy tied for third place. The award was announced Tuesday. After months of the same questions about his well-tested left arm, Bumgarner made light of it all.

He had just thrown 270 innings, including 21 with two wins and a save in a World Series that went the distance against the fellow wild-card Royals.

"I got a splinter in my finger the other day. That was kind of painful," Bumgarner quipped, sounding perfectly serious. "Fortunately, it was on my right hand." Bruce Bochy's 25-year-old workhorse has earned the manager's trust that he will speak up if anything ever feels off with his arm. Otherwise, he's going to keep getting the ball.

With that tricky cross-body, three-quarters delivery - resembling a sling shot - Bumgarner shows hitters the ball briefly with an outstretched arm before that rapid release and suddenly it's right there leaving batters baffled.

On two days' rest in Game 7, that day he sat with Peavy in Kansas City, he pitched five scoreless innings of relief in a 3-2 win. Only after that would Bumgarner acknowledge he might need a mental and physical break at last after tossing a record 52 2-3 postseason innings.

"You know what? I can't lie to you anymore," he said. "I'm a little tired now."

Pitching coach Dave Righetti began fielding inquiries before the World Series began about wheth-

er Bumgarner had the chance to make three appearances. He knew it could happen, though it wasn't exactly planned.

"You don't realize when you're in the middle of the eye, 'Wow, what this guy's doing is so special,'" Righetti said. "That really hasn't been done in years. ... When you've got a healthy guy who's on a roll, those are the kind of guys who change big series and do special things."

The Giants locked up Bumgarner long-term in April 2012 on a \$35.56 million, six-year contract through 2017. □



In this Oct. 29, 2014, file photo, San Francisco Giants' Madison Bumgarner, right, and catcher Buster Posey celebrate after Game 7 of baseball's World Series against the Kansas City Royals Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2014, in Kansas City, Mo. Bumgarner is the 2014 Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year.

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Clemson routs Oklahoma 40-6 in bowl game

ORLANDO, Florida (AP)

— Clemson quarterback Cole Stoudt threw for three touchdowns and ran for another to lead the Tigers to a 40-6 rout of Oklahoma in the Russell Athletic Bowl on Monday.

In the day's other bowl games, Arkansas also had a comfortable victory, defeating Texas in the Texas Bowl, while Texas A&M came back from an early deficit to narrowly win the Liberty Bowl against West Virginia.

Clemson's win was its 10th of the season, reaching double-digit victories for the fourth consecutive season.

Stoudt was 26 for 36 for a season-high 319 yards. He was sacked four times, but the Tigers never turned the ball over. The defense also did its job, holding Oklahoma to just 275 yards for the game.

The Sooners had five turnovers, including three interceptions by Trevor Knight.



Clemson quarterback Cole Stoudt (18) dives for a first down as he gets by Oklahoma safety Ahmad Thomas (13) during the first half of the Russell Athletic Bowl NCAA college football game in Orlando, Fla., Monday, Dec. 29, 2014.

They entered the game averaging nearly 40 points but didn't score until late in the fourth quarter.

Arkansas won in its first bowl appearance for three years, beating Texas 31-7 in

the Texas Bowl, with Brandon Allen throwing for 160 yards and two scores.

In the first game between these former Southwest Conference rivals for six years, Arkansas built a 24-7

lead by halftime and Jonathan Williams, who finished with 105 yards rushing, added a 1-yard touchdown run early in the fourth quarter. Texas was smothered by Arkansas' defense almost

all night and finished with a season-low 59 total yards. It is the second straight lopsided bowl loss for the Longhorns after a 30-7 defeat by Oregon last season. Texas A&M recovered from an early 10-point deficit to beat West Virginia 45-37 in the Liberty Bowl, with Kyle Allen throwing four touchdown passes and running for a fifth.

Allen went 22 of 35 for 294 yards, and Malcolm Kennedy caught two of the scores. Allen's 14-yard rushing TD in the final minute of the first half put the Aggies ahead for good.

Tra Carson rushed for a career-high 133 yards on 25 carries, and Trey Williams scored two touchdowns.

West Virginia quarterbacks Skyler Howard went 20 of 45 for 346 yards and three touchdowns in only his second career start, replacing Clint Trickett, who quit the sport due to multiple concussions.

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NFL domestic violence is AP sports story of year

RACHEL COHEN

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL's troubles with domestic violence were selected the sports story of the year Tuesday in an annual vote conducted by The Associated Press.

Ninety-four ballots were submitted from U.S. editors and news directors. Voters were asked to rank the top 10 sports stories of the year, with the first-place story receiving 10 points, the second-place story nine points and so on.

NFL domestic violence received 659 points and 29 first-place votes.

The No. 2 sports story, Clippers owner Donald Sterling forced out by the NBA after his racist statements, had 518 points.

Here are 2014's top 10 stories:

1. **NFL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:** Baltimore Ravens star running back Ray Rice knocked his now-wife unconscious in an Atlantic City casino elevator Feb. 15, but it wasn't until July 24 that domestic violence cases spiraled into a crisis roiling the NFL. Commissioner Roger Goodell suspended Rice for just two games, which drew widespread derision. More than a month passed before Goodell admitted he "didn't get it right" and announced harsher sanctions for future domestic violence offenses.

But the NFL's problems were only beginning. On Sept. 8, TMZ Sports released video from inside the elevator that showed Rice punching his then-fiancee; the Ravens responded by releasing him and Goodell suspended him indefinitely. And on Sept. 12, one of the league's biggest stars, Minnesota Vikings running



In this Nov. 5, 2014, file photo, Ray Rice arrives with his wife Janay Palmer for an appeal hearing in New York, regarding his then-indefinite suspension from the NFL. The NFL's troubles with domestic violence were selected the sports story of the year Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2014, in an annual vote conducted by The Associated Press.

Associated Press.

back Adrian Peterson, was indicted on felony child abuse charges for using a wooden switch to discipline his 4-year-old son. The Vikings initially planned to play him just over a week later, reversing course only after the ensuing uproar.

The year ends with Rice reinstated by an arbitrator but without a team and Peterson suspended and suing the NFL. Chastened by those and other cases, the league is pushing a new personal conduct policy, but the players' union is balking at Goodell's role in the disciplinary process.

2. **CLIPPERS' STERLING BANNED:** Donald Sterling had withstood accusations of racism throughout his more than three decades as owner of the Los Angeles Clippers. But when

audio surfaced April 25 of Sterling spewing racist remarks, he was banned for life by new NBA Commissioner Adam Silver just four days later and forced to sell the team.

3. **LEBRON GOES HOME:** This time, LeBron James decided to return home. Four years after spurning Cleveland to sign with the Miami Heat, the Northeast Ohio native and four-time NBA MVP announced July 11 that he was rejoining the Cavaliers to try to end the city's half-century title drought.

4. **FIRSTS FOR GAY ATHLETES:** Jason Collins became the first openly gay man to play in the big four North American pro sports leagues when he made his debut with the Brooklyn Nets on Feb. 23. The veteran center

had come out 10 months earlier, a trailblazing moment that helped inspire other athletes and sports officials to follow his lead in 2014. That included Missouri All-American Michael Sam, who went on to be drafted into the NFL, though he has yet to play in a game.

5. **GIANTS WIN WORLD SERIES:** Madison Bumgarner pitched seven dominant innings to win Game 1 of the World Series. Then the San Francisco ace topped himself with a shutout in Game 5. He outdid himself yet again with five scoreless innings of relief in Game 7 to clinch the Giants' third championship in five years.

6. **COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF PAYS OFF:** Ohio State lost to Virginia Tech on Sept. 6. Oregon was upset by Arizona on Oct.

2, and Alabama fell to Ole Miss two days later. The rest of those teams' regular-season games still mattered because of the new College Football Playoff, which made more and more matchups meaningful deep into the fall.

7. **TONY STEWART:** One of NASCAR's biggest stars, Tony Stewart, was taking part in a small sprint car race in upstate New York on Aug. 9 when he struck and killed 20-year-old driver Kevin Ward Jr. A grand jury decided not to bring criminal charges against Stewart, who skipped three NASCAR races as he grieved.

8. **WORLD CUP:** Brazil's World Cup was a big celebration until those German goals started piling up. The expected massive protests didn't materialize, and the construction delays caused few headaches. The major disappointment came on the field when the hosts, without injured star Neymar, were thrashed 7-1 in the semifinals by eventual champion Germany.

9. **SEAHAWKS WIN SUPER BOWL:** Richard Sherman's Seattle defense was way too much for Peyton Manning's Denver offense. The Seahawks flustered and flattened the Broncos with a 43-8 victory in the Super Bowl, when the weather cooperated outdoors in New Jersey.

10. **SOCHI OLYMPICS:** The Sochi Olympics opened amid fears of terrorist attacks and denunciations of Russia's so-called "gay propaganda" law. The games went on peacefully, with the hosts winning 33 medals — though not in hockey. But by the closing ceremony, darkness lurked nearby in the world in violence in Ukraine. □

And what have you done?

John Lennon sang, "So this is Christmas, and what have you done? Another year over..." If I had to sum up what I have done this year, it would be that I have shared my journey.

My work is to share my knowledge with students, co-workers and patients. I am privileged to love my work. Phyllis, my soul mate, makes sure our shared journey includes wishful experiences and magical places.

This year one of the wonderful things we were blessed to do was to return to the house of my father's birth in Portugal. Phyllis says, a "wishful thought," sparked a union of over 50 Viana's, in Viana do Castelo, which I had not visited in 50 years! Being welcomed with open arms by family who had been strangers was overwhelming. We saw the past, present and future in the strong work ethic of these humble healers of the land.

Expanding my medical and spiritual knowledge and duties, I became a Deacon and a Knight in the Sacred Medical Order of Hope (SMOH) Increasing my ability to share, I proudly became a member in the Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, an international charitable organization which helps thousands of sick, suffering and the needy worldwide. Both organizations are in the service of humanity, sharing good works.

This year we had the privilege to share our message of health with our sister islands of Curacao and Bonaire. Hungry for information, our new patients became our teachers with

Each connection helps us grow.

If you are reading this, we are already sharing our journeys and I thank you. As we continue our jour-

an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction

formation: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270, Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

Dr. Viana's Award Winning



their inquisitive minds and questions. Our answers to their questions are the foundation of our newspaper articles that continue to allow us to educate our communities and visitors. We are always grateful to share daily with our patients, family, friends, colleagues and even pets.

ney into the New Year, we invite you to travel with us, learning and sharing body, mind and spiritual health. We wish 2015, be a year you become a better you, filled with joy, health and sharing.

-In Gratitude, Dr. Carlos

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is

Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For in-

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Review: iPhone user tries to go back to BlackBerry

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The BlackBerry's blinking red light used to haunt me.

Just when I thought I could relax, enjoy a nice dinner or go for a run, my BlackBerry would start blinking again, signaling a new message. I was an addict. Typing with one hand, hiding the BlackBerry under the dinner table? No problem. Walking down the street while composing messages? Easy.

That was four years ago.

Today, I'm a loyal iPhone user, having just bought my second phone from Apple. I get my personal and work email on it. I also use it to tweet — maybe too much — and share photos of my travels on Instagram. My airline boarding passes and hotel reservations live on my phone. As a travel reporter, I find it's an indispensable tool for my work — not so much for the email but for all the apps that help me manage my trips. It feels like a mobile office for me. This past week, I went back to my BlackBerry ways to test the company's latest model, the Classic.

For BlackBerry, this device is a return to its roots: It's made for those heavy corporate users who love the physical keyboard and have resisted the touch screens adopted by millions of iPhone and Android users. The Classic has strong security features, restores the beloved navigation row and sports a battery that won't be drained by lunch.

I can see how the Classic is a great device for loyal BlackBerry fans.

My friend Heather Montminy practically jumped out of her chair to try the Classic when she saw me testing it during dinner last

week with our respective spouses. Montminy is a lawyer who has been using a BlackBerry for 12 years and carries two phones: an iPhone for her personal use and a BlackBerry for work.

"I'm excited for any new BlackBerry. I was really concerned that they were going to phase out the keyboard," Montminy says. "I feel like I can get a business email done much faster and more efficiently." She says she's not great at typing on a touch screen and often finds herself making mistakes and having to go back and fix them. That might be fine in a message to friends but not on an important work email.

But after four years on the iPhone, I don't think the Classic is for me. I also don't believe it's going to sway back anybody who has abandoned the BlackBerry. To be honest, I've become very good at typing emails on my touch screen. And I'm no casual user.

I send and receive a whopping 500 emails a day. Many are public relations pitches that only require a word or two in reply. But for many others, I will easily respond with a few paragraphs on my iPhone. In fact, I will often write large sections of my stories on my iPhone while riding the subway or sitting on planes prior to takeoff. The only big downside for me is copying and pasting. Going back to a physical keyboard this past week turned out to be cumbersome. Yes, I liked that while in another program, the BlackBerry gave me a little banner up top announcing the sender of a new email. And, to be honest, that blinking red light was, in a strange way, comforting. But I wasn't



In this Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2014, file photo, BlackBerry's new BlackBerry Classic phone appears on display during a news conference, in New York. BlackBerry's new Classic aims to please its core users who love a physical keyboard.

Associated Press

typing any faster with the physical keyboard.

Beyond that, photos aren't as good as what I can take with the iPhone. Both phones produce 8 megapixel pictures, but images taken with the Classic weren't as sharp.

More importantly, BlackBerry lacks several apps I've come to depend on. The Classic will run some Android apps through Amazon's app store, but it's a subset of what's available for Android. It doesn't even run everything that would run on Amazon's Fire phone. Apps need to be tweaked for the phone's

3.5-inch screen (The display is smaller than most phones because the physical keyboard takes up much of the bottom).

There's no Instagram, no Uber car service — at least without relying on unofficial apps or complex, backdoor installation methods.

There's also no ability to easily pull up my airline boarding passes. With my iPhone, I can add my boarding pass to Passbook. It's there as I get to the security checkpoint — no fumbling around email folders or hoping there is a strong enough cell signal to download the image

fresh. With BlackBerry, I can download some individual airline apps, but not all of them work. There are ways that BlackBerry loyalists find to get most of these apps — or at least their functionality through similar apps — but for me, none of that was intuitive. And that's my issue. I don't want to think too hard just to use my phone. Maybe if I never got a taste of the iPhones and all the apps available for it, I'd be first in line for a Classic. But BlackBerry took too long to modernize its system, and in that time, I've gotten used to the touch screen.



Shake Shack chain files for initial public offering

RACHEL ABRAMS

© 2014 New York Times

A onetime hot dog cart is on its way to becoming a global company listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Shake Shack, which has grown substantially since its humble beginnings more than a decade ago in Madison Square Park in New York City, filed to sell

shares to the public this week.

An initial public offering would follow splashy debuts by several other restaurant chains this year. Shares of El Pollo Loco jumped 60 percent on their first day of trading in July and ultimately rose as high as \$41.20. On Monday, the chain's stock closed at \$20.75, up 38 percent

from its IPO price. Shares of Zoe's Kitchen also surged on their debut in April and are nearly double their IPO price.

Shake Shack, which operates 63 restaurants around the world, said in its filing that it could raise as much as \$100 million through the sale of an undisclosed number of shares, although that figure is a

placeholder and is likely to change. Two classes of shares will exist after the offering.

The company also disclosed financial data in its filing Monday. Over a three-fiscal-year period that ended Dec. 25, 2013, total revenue grew to \$82.5 million from \$19.5 million. More recently, for the 39 weeks ending Sept. 25,

Shake Shack had revenue of \$83.76 million, up nearly 41 percent from the same period in 2013. Net income fell 20 percent, to \$3.54 million in that period.

Thirty-one outlets operate in the United States, including seven in New York.

At lunchtime in Manhattan, busy workers mingle with tourists in lines that often spill onto the street. □

Global markets fall as New Year holiday nears

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Lingering concerns about the political future of Greece pushed U.S. and global stock markets modestly lower on Tuesday.

Trading was slow as most investors have closed their books for 2014. It was the eighth-slowest day of the year on the New York Stock Exchange.

As been the case several times this year, investors turned their eyes to Europe. Greek stocks stabilized after a volatile day Monday, when the country's government was forced to call elections that could create more economic turmoil. Investors worry that the elections might be won by the left-wing opposition Syriza party, which opposes the austerity measures associated with Greece's international financial rescue deal. The Athens stock market plunged as much as 11 percent on Monday before recovering some of those losses to close down 4 percent that day.



Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York. Lingering concerns about the political future of Greece pushed U.S. and global stock markets modestly lower on Tuesday ahead of the New Year holiday.
(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

"An election puts all sorts of doubt on the future of the bailout agreement," said Stan Shamu, a market strategist at IG Markets. "Potentially markets had already priced this in, but I would still remain cautious around Greece."

U.S. stocks opened lower and stayed down throughout the day. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 55.16 points, or 0.3 percent, to 17,983.07. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 10.22 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,080.35 and

the Nasdaq composite fell 29.47 points, or 0.6 percent, to 4,777.44.

European markets also fell. France's CAC 40 lost 1.7 percent, Germany's DAX declined 1.2 percent and Britain's FTSE 100 dropped 1.3 percent. Greece's

stock market fell 0.4 percent.

At this point, most investors are done trading for the year. The market is also expected to be quiet Wednesday ahead of New Year's Day holiday, however oftentimes the last trading day of the year does see a modest burst of trading as some investors shift their portfolios around for tax purposes.

With one more trading day in 2014, the S&P 500 is up 12.6 percent for the year, or 15.4 percent including dividends. That gain is almost double what stock market strategists expected at the beginning of the year.

"There were some negative surprises along the way, including the Ebola scare and increasing social tensions around the globe," Gary Thayer, chief macro strategist at Wells Fargo Advisors, wrote in a note to investors. "However, U.S. markets were able to weather these problems as (the U.S. economy) improved." □

Xiaomi, Chinese smartphone maker, valued at \$45 billion

NEIL GOUGH

© 2014 New York Times

HONG KONG - Xiaomi, the fast-rising Chinese smartphone maker, has mustered a new \$1.1 billion war chest in its latest round of fundraising, the company's founder and chief executive said earlier this week.

The round valued Xiaomi at \$45 billion, founder Lei Jun said in a post on his verified account on Weibo, Chi-

na's Twitter-like messaging service. At that level, Xiaomi, which last summer claimed the No. 1 position in China's smartphone market - the world's largest - is now worth much more than household technology company names like Sony or Nokia, and nearly as much as Yahoo's current market value.

Xiaomi, founded in 2010, has overtaken both Samsung and Apple in China

by offering cheap, high-quality phones through clever online marketing campaigns that appeal to China's growing ranks of young and affluent consumers. Around 500 million smartphones are expected to be sold in China in 2015, more than three times as many as will be sold in the United States, according to the research firm IDC.

Xiaomi's latest round of fundraising includes capi-

tal from All-Stars Investment, a fund run by Richard Ji, a former Morgan Stanley analyst, Lei said.

Other investors include GIC, Singapore's sovereign investment corporation; DST Global, a fund run by the Russian billionaire Yuri Milner and an early investor in Facebook; Hopu Investment Management, one of China's biggest private equity groups; and Yunfeng Capital, another

Chinese private equity company set up by Jack Ma, the founder of the Alibaba Group, the Chinese e-commerce giant.

In China, Xiaomi has been compared to Apple - and not always in a flattering way. It has been accused by critics and even some faithful Chinese customers of copying Apple, from the design of its phones to its sleek marketing events for new products. □

Four Big Questions for 2015



JOE NOCERA
© 2014 New York Times

Will President Barack Obama approve the Keystone XL oil pipeline?

Up until recently, I always assumed that Obama would, sooner or later, despite the protests of the environmental community. In March 2012, for instance, he spoke positively about the proposed pipeline, which would bring oil mined from the tar sands of Alberta, Canada, to refineries along the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, approval of the pipeline is important to the government of Canada, our neighbor and ally. But several things happened in 2014 that now make me think he will turn it down.

The first is that the glut of oil - largely because of the increase in U.S. production - has made the oil from the tar sands unnecessary, at least for now. Second, as the president moves into legacy mode, saying no to Keystone could firm up his credentials as a leader who tried to do something about climate change.

And, finally, Republicans, who will control both the House and the Senate in January, have vowed to send the president a bill approving construction of the pipeline. Vetoing that bill would be very much in keeping with the bolder, more confrontational persona that Obama has displayed since the midterm elections.

Will insider-trading prosecutions disappear?

Thanks to a recent decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit, they just might. The ruling overturned the convictions of two hedge fund managers who had made stock trades based on information they received, third- or fourth-hand, from corporate insiders. Because they didn't know the identity of the insiders - or whether those insiders were receiving any tangible benefit for leaking information - the court ruled that the fund managers had not committed a crime.

Thus did the appeals court define insider trading narrowly, making it difficult to charge anybody who did not directly pay off a source for information.

To some degree, the Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission are reaping what they sowed.

There is no law that defines the crime of insider trading; instead the rules for what is, or is not, illegal have evolved through court cases. For years, that suited the government, which could try to

stretch the definition from case to case. But now the judiciary is drastically shrinking that definition. James B. Stewart, The Times business columnist, recently wrote that the country needs an insider-trading statute to define the crime, once and for all. He's right.

Will the average college football coach make more than the average professional football coach?

Well, it probably won't happen in 2015, but we are headed in that direction. As of this fall, the average pay for the head coaches in the five wealthiest football conferences (the "power five") was \$2.96 million. Professional coaches made nearly twice as much, \$4.85 million.

But more and more, colleges are luring top coaches by offering them pro-like salaries. The most recent example is Jim Harbaugh. Paid \$5 million a year to coach the San Francisco 49ers, he has reportedly agreed to leave the pro ranks for the University of Michigan for \$8 million a year. No doubt, the Michigan trustees calculated that he would be worth that much if he returned the school to its former football glory. But it's another reminder that college football is every bit the multibillion-dollar business that the NFL is.

Except, of course, that the players don't get paid.

(By the way, the upcoming issue of The Washington Monthly has an illuminating article about the controversy that ensued a century ago when college coaches first began to be paid.)

Will Uber survive?

I'm only being partly facetious. Uber has an enormous war chest and is a popular service that now operates in 255 cities. But it has a serious problem: It keeps bumping into government resistance. When a company like, say, Skype began offering free phone calls, it disrupted the telephone industry.

But the phone companies couldn't do much about it. Uber, however, is disrupting services that are controlled and regulated by governments. Uber can argue all it wants that those government regulations are outmoded. It can even be right.

But it doesn't matter. Governments have the power to push back. Uber has been ruled illegal in Nevada. South Korea went so far as to indict Travis Kalanick, Uber's chief executive, charging that the company violated "local licensing laws," according to The Times. There are lots more examples.

Compare Uber's hyperaggressive business practices to those of Airbnb, the company that is disrupting the hotel industry. Facing much the same kind of government resistance, Airbnb has lowered its rhetoric and taken steps to comply with local regulations. That approach seems to be working.

They say you catch more flies with honey than with vinegar. Uber should try it sometime. □



The Obama Recovery



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2014 New York Times

Suppose that for some reason you decided to start hitting yourself in the head, repeatedly, with a baseball bat. You'd feel pretty bad. Correspondingly, you'd probably feel a lot better if and when you finally stopped. What would that improvement in your condition tell you?

It certainly wouldn't imply that hitting yourself in the head was a good idea. It would, however, be an indication that the pain you were experiencing wasn't a reflection of anything fundamentally wrong with your health. Your head wasn't hurting because you were sick; it was hurting because you kept hitting it with that baseball bat.

And now you understand the basics of what has been happening to several major economies, including the United States, over the past few years. In fact, you understand these basics better than many politicians and commentators.

Let's start with a tale from overseas: austerity policy in Britain. As you may know, back in 2010 Britain's newly installed Conservative government declared that a sharp reduction in budget deficits was needed to keep Britain from turning into Greece.

Over the next two years growth in the British economy, which had been recovering fairly well from the financial crisis, more or less stalled. In 2013, however, growth picked up again - and the British government claimed

vindication for its policies. Was this claim justified?

No, not at all. What actually happened was that the Tories stopped tightening the screws - they didn't reverse the austerity that had already occurred, but they effectively put a hold on further cuts. So they stopped hitting Britain in the head with that baseball bat.

And sure enough, the nation started feeling better.

To claim that this bounceback vindicated austerity is silly. As Simon Wren-Lewis of Oxford University likes to point out, if rapid growth after a gratuitous slump counts as success, the government should just close down half the economy for a year; the next year's growth would be fantastic. Or as I'd put it, you shouldn't conclude that hitting yourself in the head is smart because it feels so good when you stop.

Unfortunately, the silliness of the claim hasn't prevented its widespread acceptance by what Wren-Lewis calls "mediamacro." Meanwhile, back in America we haven't had an official, declared policy of fiscal austerity - but we've nonetheless had plenty of austerity in practice, thanks to the federal sequester and sharp cuts by state and local governments.

The good news is that we, too, seem to have stopped tightening the screws: Public spending isn't surging, but at least it has stopped falling. And the economy is doing much better as a result. We are finally starting to see the kind of growth, in employment and GDP, that we should have been seeing all along - and the public's mood is rapidly improving.

What's the important lesson from this late Obama bounce? Mainly, I'd suggest, that everything you've heard about President Barack Obama's economic policies is wrong.

You know the spiel: that the U.S. economy is ailing because

Obamacare is a job-killer and the president is a redistributionist, that Obama's anti-business speeches (he hasn't actually made any, but never mind) have hurt entrepreneurs' feelings, inducing them to take their marbles and go home.

This storyline never made much sense. The truth is that the private sector has done surprisingly well under Obama, adding 6.7 million jobs since he took office, compared with just 3.1 million at this point under President George W. Bush.

Corporate profits have soared, as have stock prices. What held us back was unprecedented public-sector austerity: At this point in the Bush years, government employment was up by 1.2 million, but under Obama it's down by 600,000. Sure enough, now that this de facto austerity is easing, the economy is perking up.

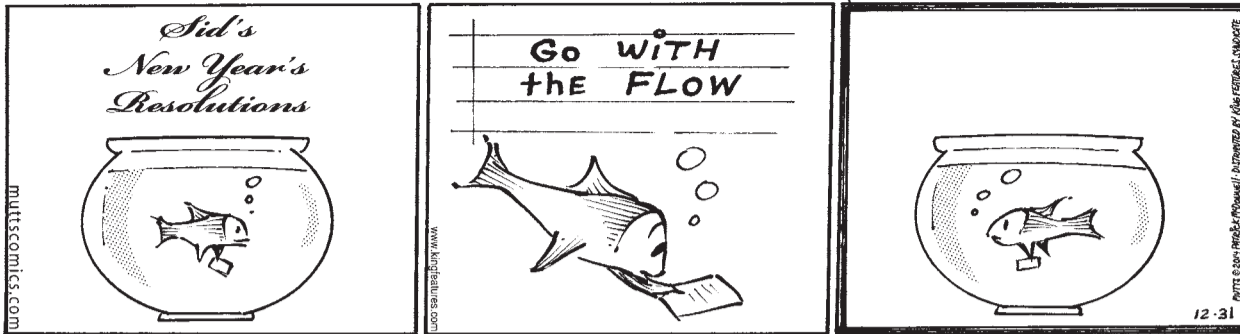
And what this bounce tells you is that the alleged faults of Obamonomics had nothing to do with the pain we were feeling. We weren't hurting because we were sick; we were hurting because we kept hitting ourselves with that baseball bat, and we're feeling a lot better now that we've stopped.

Will this improvement in our condition continue? Britain's government has declared its intention to pick up the baseball bat again - to engage in further austerity, which does not bode well. But here the picture looks brighter. Households are in much better financial shape than they were a few years ago; there's probably still a lot of pent-up demand, especially for housing.

And falling oil prices will be good for most of the country, although some regions - especially Texas - may take a hit.

So I'm fairly optimistic about 2015, and probably beyond, as long as we avoid any more self-inflicted damage. Let's just leave that baseball bat lying on the ground, OK? □

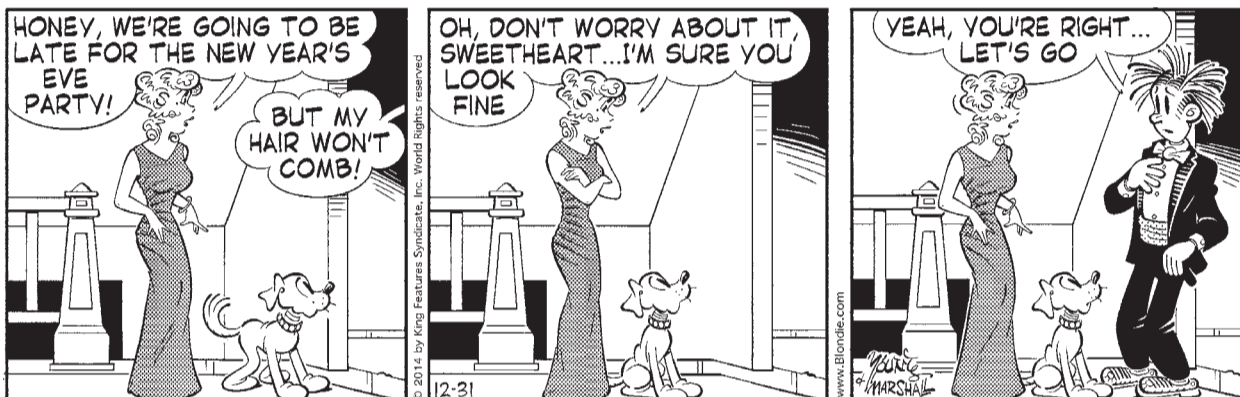
Mutts



6 Chix



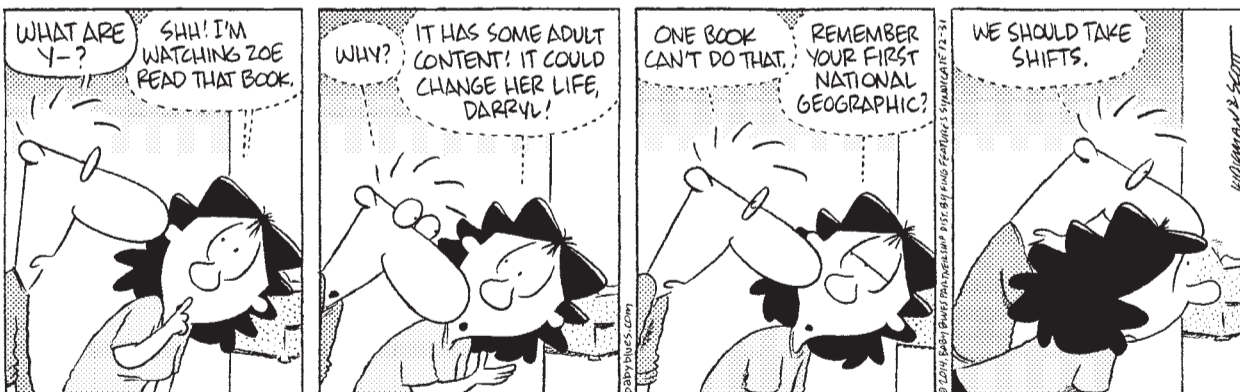
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	5	9	6				1	3
		8	4	7		6	5	
				5		7		
			1	8	7			
		1				9		
6	3		9				8	
9							2	
	8	6	7				4	
			2	3			6	

Difficulty Level ★★

12/31

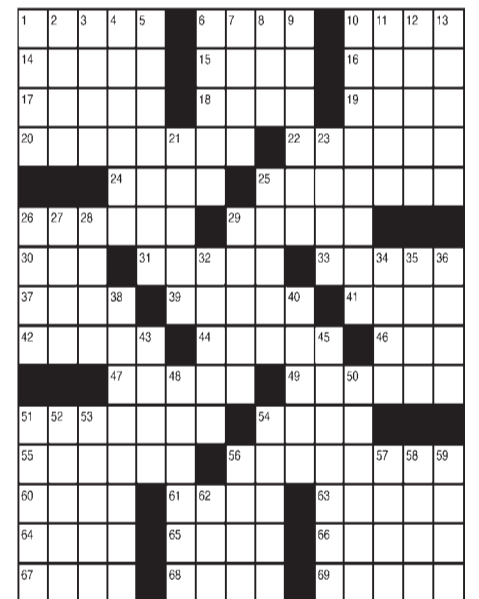
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	8	7	3	6	1	9	2	5
6	3	2	9	7	5	8	1	4
9	5	1	2	4	8	7	6	3
7	4	6	8	2	3	5	9	1
8	1	3	4	5	9	6	7	2
5	2	9	7	1	6	3	4	8
2	6	4	5	3	7	1	8	9
3	7	8	1	9	4	2	5	6
1	9	5	6	8	2	4	3	7

ACROSS

- 1 Tempted; attracted
 - 6 Snatch
 - 10 Deep mud
 - 14 Express one's views
 - 15 Hick
 - 16 Commotions
 - 17 Merchandise
 - 18 Part of a foot
 - 19 Thick eggy drinks
 - 20 Alluring
 - 22 Pennsylvania or Fifth
 - 24 Peddle
 - 25 Flies
 - 26 Natural skill
 - 29 Perfume
 - 30 Wide sash
 - 31 Actor's first appearance
 - 33 Spine-chilling
 - 37 Wild feline
 - 39 Harshness; severity
 - 41 "Out the Barrel"
 - 42 Laundry problem
 - 44 Challenged
 - 46 _ nut; acorn
 - 47 _ to; cite, as a written work
 - 49 Grable & White
 - 51 Fever reducer
 - 54 Ballerina's skirt
 - 55 African nation
 - 56 Cloudy eye formation
 - 60 Game cubes
 - 61 Messy person
 - 63 Bring upon oneself, as a penalty
 - 64 Dollar bills
 - 65 Barber's item
 - 66 State of uncertainty
 - 67 Cincinnati team
 - 68 Follow orders
 - 69 Drive too fast
- DOWN**
- 1 Theater box
 - 2 Come _; find
 - 3 Street uprising



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/31/14

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

4 Leaf vegetable	PUMA	PHASE	SNAP
5 Come down	APES	OUNCE	TUBA
6 Daily _; boring routine	TOTS	UNDER	ALLY
7 Ladder step	ENSIGNS	NIBBLES	
8 CBS competitor	SOD	STEEL	
9 Act properly	GUSTO	HES	GEARS
10 Cannibal	OPTS	FIT	TASSEL
11 " _ care"; apathetic reply	ASA	POSTMAN	ICY
12 Scoundrel	LETTER	EAT	PAUL
13 Curvy letters	STEAK	BEE	HENRY
21 Bury	NOSES	BOA	
23 Grape bearer	DICKENS	SATCHEL	
25 Thespian	OOZE	AILED	HIRE
26 Lids	STAR	IDEAL	EGGS
27 Lie next to	EARS	LEERY	SHOT

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12/31/14

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 40 Counter an argument | 54 Pet cat, often |
| 43 Bookworm | 56 _ back; return |
| 45 Particulars | 57 Highest point |
| 48 Debacle | 58 Rubik's invention |
| 50 Root veggie | 59 _ on; |
| 51 Zeal | trampled |
| 52 Pigs and hogs | 62 Hit a tennis ball in a high arc |
| 53 Walked the floor | |

wealth gap

Continued from Page 6

"You'd enjoy college," he recalls telling her, trying the soft sell.

But Jackie, then 18, was having none of it. And the anger between them mounted.

"You're destined for a life of mediocrity," he said.

"Let me do what I want!" she shot back.

Economists differ about how much weight to give the various factors behind the wealth gap, but they generally agree on one thing: College matters, in part because many of the middle-income jobs once available to those who skipped it are disappearing.

According to a Pew Research analysis of Census data, the average income of a household led by someone with just a high school degree fell 5 percent from 1991 to 2012, adjusted for inflation. By contrast, income for households led by the college educated rose 9 percent.

As with the nation, so with the Seavers.

Jayson went on to make

big money at a commodity trading company — \$300,000 or so in his last job, by his own estimate. He invested in a restaurant in Manhattan, where he lives. He vacations in Florida, Costa Rica and Hawaii.

Jackie went back to waitressing, married the boyfriend and took a job at a drug company, where her boss called her a "top candidate" for promotion. But he turned her down because he said she needed a college degree. Now, rather than jet around on vacation like her brother, Jackie and her husband tend to go camping. Yet she says she's happy with a more modest lifestyle.

Asked about the nation's wealth gap, Jayson says, "You get paid what you put in. We're in control."

Jackie isn't so quick with a response. She wonders if there's more behind the trend than some people working hard and making the right moves and others not. Still, in the end, she essentially agrees with her brother. "It's self-motivation that's at the root of success." Jeff Nash,

68, thinks the nation's income gap largely reflects peoples' varying talents and careers, a trend he sees in his own family. He became a stock broker, then a venture capitalist. His brother chose acting, his half-sister, teaching.

"There's been income inequality since Adam and Eve," he says. "Different siblings have different abilities."

Only 3 percent of America surveyed about the wealth gap by Gallup in March felt it was the country's "most important problem," fewer than those who cited foreign aid and immigration. Asked in an October poll by Pew Research to name the most important reason for the wealth gap, 24 percent chose "some work harder than others," more than tax policies, foreign trade or the educational system. Among dozens of people interviewed by The Associated Press, many revealed similar views. Jessica Sondag, 31, a software saleswoman in Oregon, says it's only natural that her brother, Benjamin, should earn multiples of her pay. □

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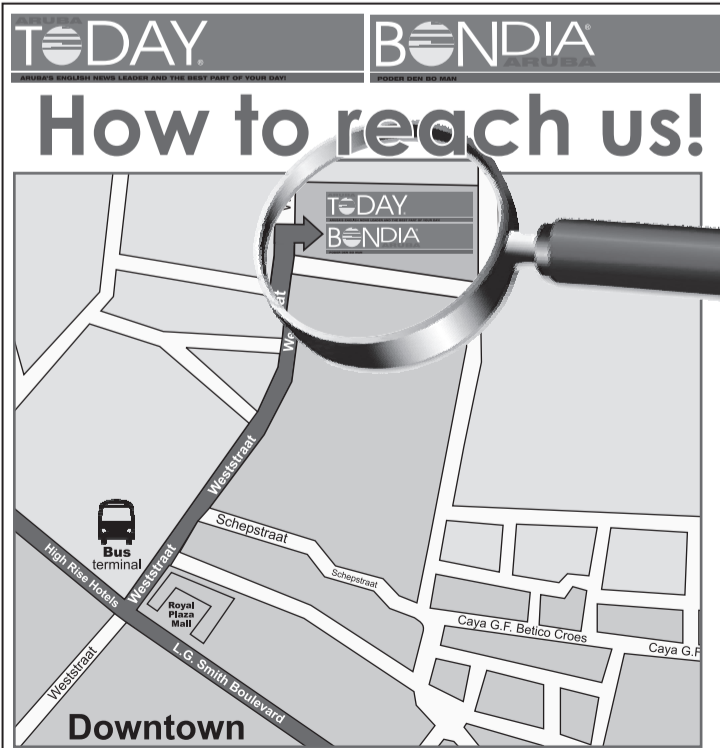
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24/7

More Monarchs return to Mexico, but now face cold

MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

PIEDRA HERRADA, Mexico (AP) — More Monarch butterflies appear to have made the long flight from the U.S. and Canada to their winter nesting ground in western Mexico, raising hopes after their number dropped to a record low last year. But experts still fear that unusual cold temperatures will threaten the orange and black insects.

While an official census won't be ready until mid-January, observers are seeing healthy populations of butterflies bunched together on fir and pine trees in protected sanctuaries, said Gloria Talavera, director of the official monarch butterfly reserve.

"We're encouraged, because we've seen more," Talavera said Monday. But cold forecast for this winter, she said, "could put at risk the whole migratory phenomenon. ... We will be saying a prayer each day until mid-February."

Mexico's National Meteorological Service predicts 55 cold fronts for the country through May, a 15 percent increase from the average, and with the possibility for repeated cold systems to extend into March and April.

The temperate climate of the mountains west of Mexico City normally creates an ideal setting for the Monarchs. Every fall, tens of millions of the delicate creatures fly thousands



In this Dec. 21, 2014 photo, a monarch butterfly perches on a branch in the Piedra Herrada sanctuary near Valle de Bravo, Mexico.

of miles to their ancestral breeding grounds, creating clouds of butterflies. They clump together on trees, forming chandelier shapes of orange and black.

The migration is an inherited trait: No butterfly lives to make the full round trip, and it is unclear how they find the route back to the same patch of forest each year. Some scientists suggest the butterflies may release chemicals marking the migratory path and fear that if their numbers fall too low, the chemical traces will not be strong enough for others to follow. The Monarch populations are being hurt by various factors: in Mexico, the encroachment of logging

into their habitat; and in the United States, the decline of milkweed, the butterflies' main source of food that has been crowded out by pesticide-resistant crops.

"The butterflies are at their most vulnerable moment because of pesticide use in the United States, climate change along their migratory route, and degradation of the forests where they winter," said Homero Aridjis, a noted writer and environmentalist.

Observers count the Monarchs not individually, but by estimating how many acres they cover. Last year, after three years of steep and steady declines, the butterflies covered only 1.65 acres (0.67 hectares),

their lowest level since record-keeping began in 1993. At their peak in 1996, the Monarchs covered more than 44.5 acres (18 hectares).

While the Monarch is not in danger of extinction, there are fears they could stop migrating or migrate elsewhere.

Environmentalists say large-scale illegal logging has declined drastically in the reserve, but small-scale logging by the mainly Indian farm communities that actually own the land remains a stubborn problem. Holes in the forest canopy make the butterflies more vulnerable to freezing weather. Talavera said cold weather is the biggest threat to the

Monarchs between now and March, when they take flight back north. Observers have noted unusual behavior in how they clump together, suggesting the insects are preparing for below-normal temperatures.

"They are seeking out canyons, seeking out more protected areas," Talavera said. "We are seeing unusual things, all of them related to the climate."

The butterflies also reached Mexico weeks later than normal, returning in mid-November rather than in time for the Day of the Dead holiday on Nov. 1, which locals long have associated with their arrival.

"They are like part of the souls that come back for the Day of the Dead," said Jorge Dominguez Reyes, a leader of the San Mateo Almomoloa farm community that runs the Piedra Herrada butterfly sanctuary.

The Monarchs have been a key attraction for tourists who visit reserves like Piedra Herrada. But such visits have been hurt by a crime wave in the nearby lake resort of Valle de Bravo and any sustained decline in butterfly numbers would be a cruel blow. The community, in fact, has formed a 10-member patrol to keep loggers out of the nesting grounds in order to protect their habitat, Dominguez Reyes said.

"The butterflies," he said, "give us more incentive to take care of the forest."

BON DIA Aruba

TIRA BO SUSHI DEN BARI, TENE ARUBA LIMPI...



Lopez's concert doc to air New Year's Eve on HBO

ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Jennifer Lopez decided to hit the road after her split from singer Marc Anthony two years ago.

She went on her first world tour, visiting 65 cities on five continents and reaching 1 million fans.

If you didn't get to see the tour in person, you can catch it on HBO on New Year's Eve. "Jennifer Lopez: Dance Again," premiering on HBO and HBO Latino (9 p.m. EST), includes performances and behind-the-scenes footage from the tour.

"I had just gotten divorced, was a single mom for the first time (and) decided to go tour the world," Lopez said in a recent interview.

The 45-year-old singer-actress said she realized the show was more than an arrangement of musical numbers; it was a mirror of her life.

"Looking at all my music and putting this show together and seeing, 'Who was I as a person? As an artist? What did I want to say with this show?' ... It was self-reflective," she said.

"Dance Again" includes rehearsal footage, interviews with family members and tense moments, such as when a dancer unexpectedly quits the show.

Fans will see how difficult it was for Lopez to leave "American Idol" after two successful seasons. (She has since returned to the Fox show, with the 14th season premiering Jan. 7.)

Cameras also show Lopez heartbroken over her twins, Maximilian and Emme, now 6 years old, missing their father.

One poignant and touching part of the documentary shows Lopez ending her tour in Puerto Rico with Anthony joining her onstage for a surprise duet. (He recently remarried.)



In this June 29, 2014 file photo, Jennifer Lopez performs at 103.5 KTU's KTUphoria at IZOD Center in East Rutherford, NJ.

Associated Press

Lopez said it was important for her children to see their parents together as a united front.

"They don't do what you say, they do what you do. You've got to show them we're not together, but

we're together for you. When it comes to you, you're so important to us and you're so loved," she said. "... I reinforce that their dad loves them and he reinforces that I love them. ... Kids with divorced parents,

and I think about this all the time, they feel like one of the parents doesn't want to be with them or doesn't care about them. We reinforce that even not being together is for them. It's the best thing."

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Owner Benjamin Petrocchi

'Dynasty' dame: Joan Collins honored by queen

BY JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP)—The diva of "Dynasty" is now a dame. Joan Collins, who played scheming, shoulder pad-wearing Alexis Carrington

in the hit 1980s TV show, was made the female equivalent of a knight in Queen Elizabeth II's annual New Year's honors list.

The star of potboilers including "The Stud" and "The

Bitch" was recognized for her services to charity. Collins, 81, is a longtime supporter of nonprofit groups helping children.

London-born Collins said Tuesday it was "humbling

to receive this level of recognition from my queen and country, and I am thrilled and truly grateful." Actress Kristin Scott Thomas, who is due to play the British monarch in stage play "The Audience" next year, was also made a dame, and said she initially didn't believe the news.

"I am thrilled, astonished and worried that I might suddenly wake up," said Scott Thomas, who received an Academy Award nomination in 1997 for "The English Patient."

Fashion designer Mary Quant, who made the miniskirt synonymous with 60s style, was also named a dame, as were television presenter Esther Rantzen, who founded the Child-Line telephone service for neglected and abused young people, and British poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy.

Veteran actor John Hurt, star of "The Naked Civil Servant," "The Elephant Man" and "Alien," was made a knight.

And it will be "Arise, Sir Simon" for chemist Simon Campbell, part of the team that created erectile dysfunction drug Viagra.

Comic actor James Corden, incoming host of "The Late Late Show" on CBS, was named an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, or OBE. The same honor went to his ex, actress Sheridan Smith.

Actress Emily Watson, who was Oscar nominated for "Breaking the Waves" and "Hilary and Jackie," also received an OBE.

Music producer Peter Asher, half of 1960s pop duo Peter and Gordon, was named a Commander of the Order of the British Empire, or CBE. So were comedian Meera Syal, a star of groundbreaking sketch comedy show "Goodness Gracious Me," and Scottish writer Ali Smith, whose novel "How To Be Both" was shortlisted for this year's Booker Prize.

A century after the start of World War I, ceramic artist Paul Cummins and stage designer Tom Piper were recognized for creating a



In this Tuesday June 4, 2013 file photo, Joan Collins arrives for the Glamour Women of the Year Awards at Berkeley Square Gardens London.

Associated Press

sea of ceramic poppies that filled the moat of the Tower of London in tribute to the war dead. They were made Members of the Order of the British Empire, or MBEs, for creating the work, which was visited by 5 million people, including the queen.

Britain's honors are bestowed by the monarch, but recipients are selected by committees of civil servants from nominations made by the government and the public.

In descending order, the main honors are knight-hoods, CBE, OBE and MBE. Knights are addressed as "sir" or "dame," followed by their name. Recipients of the other honors have no title, but can put the letters after their surnames.

The honors are used to reward long-serving politicians, diplomats, civil servants and royal courtiers, but the list also includes a smattering of celebrities and many people unknown outside their communities or specialist fields. The list of more than 1,100 recipients includes an MBE for Britain's leading arrowsmith, while others were honored for services to tax policy, libraries and English-language teacher training in North Korea.

The oldest recipient was 103-year-old Fauja Singh, who took up marathon running at the age of 89 and continued well past his century.

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